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Industrial electrification and resilient energy infrastructure

Position of the EU Batch Hot Dip Galvanizing Industry

EGGA welcomes the EU's ambition to accelerate electrification and the stronger focus on reducing electricity costs and addressing barriers to industrial electrification. Energy security, competitiveness and decarbonisation must go hand in hand.

The Electrification Action Plan and the proposal on future-proofing electricity bills are important steps in the right direction. They now need to translate into effective action and implementation through EU legislation, Member States policies and accessible funding rules. Other important European initiatives will also shape the enabling conditions for industrial electrification, including the EU Grids package, the upcoming revision of the Energy Security framework and the post-2030 Energy framework.

Electrification of batch galvanizing is technically feasible and, while industry is ready to invest in decarbonisation, competitiveness cannot be compromised. While supporting technology neutrality, our sector can further electrify when the right enabling conditions are in place, in particular competitive electricity prices, reliable electricity supply, manageable investment costs and faster grid connections.

The batch galvanizing industry is a reliable partner in delivering resilient, low-carbon and long-lasting infrastructure across Europe. As a key part of the steel value chain, the sector provides long-term corrosion steel protection. By maximising durability and reducing the need for maintenance and replacement, galvanized steel plays an important role in renewable energy installations, electricity grid systems and other net-zero technologies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create economically viable conditions for electrification across the value chain

EGGA welcomes the direction of the Electrification Action Plan and its recognition of the barriers facing industry. While an electrification target can be useful, the priority should be to create economically viable conditions that enable companies to invest. This means making electricity more affordable, reducing the electricity-to-gas price gap and the disparities between Member States, addressing upfront investment costs and accelerating grid connections.

EGGA also welcomes the development of sector-specific electrification roadmaps along the value chain. Electrification pathways are different from sector to sector and depend on processes, temperature requirements and economic conditions. Batch galvanizing is part of the steel value chain, but our situation is different from the upstream steel production. Our sector, predominantly composed of SMEs and mid-sized companies, is not energy intensive and our processes require continuous heating at temperatures in the range of 420°C to 580°C.

Ensure investment support reaches SMEs and non-EIIs

Upfront investment costs remain an important barrier, particularly for SMEs and mid-sized companies. EGGA is concerned that the proposed Industrial Decarbonisation Bank and ETS Investment Booster will focus on

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energy-intensive industries (EIIs). Although we understand the importance of supporting the decarbonisation of EIIs, the transition must be across the entire value chain, ensuring that SMEs and non-EIIs are not left behind.

EGGA therefore calls for EU and national funding for industrial decarbonisation, including electrification investments by SMEs and non-EIIs, with a dedicated funding mechanism where appropriate. Application procedures and requirements should be simple and proportionate to SMEs' capacities and investment needs, and it should be complemented by technical assistance for project preparation and financing.

Ensure fair electricity costs

EGGA welcomes measures under the proposal on future-proofing electricity bills to reduce electricity taxation and give national authorities greater possibilities to address network costs. However, support targeted at specific categories of users, such as EIIs, should not simply shift electricity taxes and network charges to SMEs and other industrial consumers. Network tariffs should be fair and affordable for all industrial users.

The galvanizing process requires continuous and stable energy supply. EGGA is therefore concerned about an approach that make favourable network tariffs primarily dependent on flexible electricity consumption. Such measures could disadvantage industrial consumers with stable and predictable demand but limited ability to shift production.

Accelerate grid connections

Companies considering major electrification investments also need clear information on grid availability connections and costs. EGGA supports measures to accelerate permitting and grid access, improve the maturity of connection requests and manage grid queues more effectively.

2. Ensure resilient and durable energy infrastructure

Electricity supply reliability is another key factor for industrial electrification. EGGA supports strengthening the resilience of Europe's energy system against physical, climate, cyber and geopolitical risks.

As Europe invests in new and upgraded grids and other critical energy infrastructure, resilience should be built in from the design stage. This should include not only security of energy supply but also the physical durability and whole-life performance of infrastructure.

Durability, corrosion protection, low maintenance requirements and whole-life performance should therefore be duly considered in the design and procurement of new and upgraded energy infrastructure, in particular critical infrastructure. This will help deliver more climate resilient infrastructure, reduce maintenance and replacement needs and help limit economic losses associated with climate-related risks.

Reference: EGGA Position Paper- EU Electrification Plan (February 2026)

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The general (batch) galvanizing industry provides the most effective long-term corrosion protection for steel products, through the application of a metallurgically-bonded coating of zinc metal. It is a service that is applied after manufacture of the product and normally on a sub-contract basis. The coating ensuring many decades of maintenance-free durability for vital net-zero technologies, such as solar power installations and wind energy equipment. A galvanized coating is sufficiently durable and robust to provide corrosion protection across more than one product lifecycle. Both zinc and steel are recovered at eventual end-of-life.

The European General Galvanizers Association (EGGA) is the federation of the national galvanizers associations within Europe. The industry comprises about 700 general galvanizing plants (mostly SMEs) employing an estimated 40,000 people in Europe. EGGA monitors and responds to issues affecting the general galvanizing industry in Europe, in particular environmental, technical and regulatory matters. EGGA also provides a platform for coordination of marketing and other initiatives for the industry.

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